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Letter dated 27 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union on the ad hoc human rights tribunal for crimes committed in East Timor, issued on 21 August 2002 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ellen Margrethe **Løj**
Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 27 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union on the ad hoc human rights tribunal for crimes committed in East Timor

The European Union welcomed the establishment of the ad hoc human rights tribunal on East Timor. Bearing in mind that the first verdicts of the tribunal have just been delivered, the European Union wishes to state the following:

The European Union has been following closely the trials of the Indonesian ad hoc human rights tribunal on East Timor and is concerned that the proceedings, so far, have not taken full account of the violence that took place in East Timor in 1999. The European Union has noted with concern the limited number of victims that have been summoned to testify, as well as the absence of witnesses from the United Nations Mission in East Timor and independent observers who were in East Timor at that time.

The European Union has also noted that important evidence made available from investigations in East Timor was not taken into account to substantiate the cases before the ad hoc human rights court.

The European Union fears that failure to produce such relevant witnesses and evidence will jeopardize the credibility of the tribunal's verdicts. Furthermore, the European Union continues to be concerned at the limited jurisdiction of the ad hoc human rights tribunal.

Finally, the European Union would like to underline that only by bringing the perpetrators of serious human rights violations and crimes against humanity to justice can trust in the judiciary be enhanced. The European Union urges the Indonesian authorities to ensure that the proceedings of the tribunal take place in conformity with the rule of law, and in full respect of international human rights standards.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and Liechtenstein and Norway, European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.